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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/27/01 9:54pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to submit my comments concerning the proposed Microsoft settlement.

Allowing this company to continue the abusive and damaging monopolistic practices that have destroyed many innovative small businesses, and has thwarted competition and free enterprise, would be damaging to our inventive and superior technology industry in the United States. Microsoft has used its monopolistic position to destroy the very competition that has led to our superior lead in the field of computer technology, and without competition, innovation is stifled. They must be stopped for the sake of our country, economy and free enterprise system that has served us so well.

Allowing them to buy their way out of the suit by supplying software and outdated near worthless hardware would be a flagrant disregard for the spirit of our antitrust laws that are in place to protect private enterprise and consumers from anti competitive practices of abusive monopolies. The incremental cost of producing a billion dollars worth of software is pennies on the dollar, and would let Microsoft get away with murder. Our justice system would become a laughing stock, and it would send the message that it is all right for monopolies to pursue abusive practices without consequences. Not only that, the plan to supply schools with this software is almost comical since it would extend their monopoly to one of the last areas they do not dominate. Microsoft has shown total disregard for our antitrust laws in the past, and without an appropriate penalty, and corrective measures, they will continue to do so in the future.

William D. Bird